

TORONTO STAR
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Ex-spy links Watergate burglar to Oswald just before JFK killed

NEW YORK (Reuter) — An ex-spy is claiming that she accompanied an assassination squad, including Lee Harvey Oswald, to Dallas, Texas, a few days before president John F. Kennedy was killed there in November, 1963.

Another in the gang was said to be Central Intelligence Agency contract agent Frank Sturgis, convicted as one of the Watergate burglars in 1973.

Maritza Lorenz, a former undercover operator for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, told the New York Daily News that her companions on the car trip from Miami to Dallas were Oswald, Sturgis, Cuban exile leaders Orlando Bosch and

Pedro Diaz Lanz and two Cuban brothers, whose names she does not know.

Oswald was officially fingered as Kennedy's assassin. The Warren Commission said he acted alone.

According to the article Miss Lorenz said the men she accompanied were all members of Operation 40, a secret guerrilla group originally formed by the CIA in 1960 in connection with the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.

She described it as an "assassination squad" consisting of about 30 anti-Castro Cubans and their American advisers.

Miss Lorenz claimed the group conspired to kill both Cuban Premier Fidel Castro and president Kennedy, whom

it blamed for the Bay of Pigs disaster.

The statements made by Miss Lorenz to the newspaper and to a federal agent were reported to Robert Blakey, chief counsel of the House of Representatives assassinations committee. He has assigned a senior investigator to interview her, the News said.

Miss Lorenz said that after a midnight meeting in Miami, she thought the group was planning to raid an arsenal or some other place where weapons were stashed in Dallas.

She said they left soon after the meeting and drove to Dallas in two cars. She added that they carried weapons — rifles and scopes — in the vehicles.

However, the Cubans said

they did not want a woman on the job and Miss Lorenz flew back to Miami from Dallas the next day, according to the article.

Two days later she was on a plane to New York when the co-pilot announced that Kennedy had been killed in Dallas, Miss Lorenz said.

Sturgis has already been questioned about the assassination by the Senate Watergate committee, the Senate intelligence committee, the House assassination committee and by former vice-president Nelson Rockefeller's commission that investigated the CIA.

He told them all that he had nothing to do with a conspiracy to kill Kennedy.